

(4) will not become eligible to receive an annuity within 31 days after filing the application;

is entitled to be paid the lump-sum credit. Except as provided in section 8420a, payment of the lump-sum credit to an employee or Member voids all annuity rights under this subchapter, and subchapters IV and V of this chapter, based on the service on which the lump-sum credit is based.

(b)(1)(A) Payment of the lump-sum credit under subsection (a) may be made only if the spouse, if any, and any former spouse of the employee or Member are notified of the employee or Member's application.

(B) The Office shall prescribe regulations under which the lump-sum credit shall not be paid without the consent of a spouse or former spouse of the employee or Member where the Office has received such additional information or documentation as the Office may require that—

(i) a court order bars payment of the lump-sum credit in order to preserve the court's ability to award an annuity under section 8445 or 8467; or

(ii) payment of the lump-sum credit would extinguish the entitlement of the spouse or former spouse, under a court order on file with the Office, to a survivor annuity under section 8445 or to any portion of an annuity under section 8467.

(2)(A) Notification of a spouse or former spouse under this subsection shall be made in accordance with such requirements as the Office shall by regulation prescribe.

(B) Under the regulations, the Office may provide that paragraph (1)(A) may be waived with respect to a spouse or former spouse if the employee or Member establishes to the satisfaction of the Office that the whereabouts of such spouse or former spouse cannot be determined.

(3) The Office shall prescribe regulations under which this subsection shall be applied in any case in which the Office receives two or more orders or decrees referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(c) Under regulations prescribed by the Office, an employee or Member, or a former employee or Member, may designate one or more beneficiaries under this section.

(d) Lump-sum benefits authorized by subsections (e) through (g) shall be paid to the individual or individuals surviving the employee or Member and alive at the date title to the payment arises in the following order of precedence, and the payment bars recovery by any other individual:

First, to the beneficiary or beneficiaries designated by the employee or Member in a signed and witnessed writing received in the Office before the death of such employee or Member. For this purpose, a designation, change, or cancellation of beneficiary in a will or other document not so executed and filed has no force or effect.

Second, if there is no designated beneficiary, to the widow or widower of the employee or Member.

Third, if none of the above, to the child or children of the employee or Member and descendants of deceased children by representation.

Fourth, if none of the above, to the parents of the employee or Member or the survivor of them.

Fifth, if none of the above, to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the employee or Member.

Sixth, if none of the above, to such other next of kin of the employee or Member as the Office determines to be entitled under the laws of the domicile of the employee or Member at the date of death of the employee or Member.

For the purpose of this subsection, "child" includes a natural child and an adopted child, but does not include a stepchild.

(e) If an employee or Member, or former employee or Member, dies—

(1) without a survivor, or

(2) with a survivor or survivors and the right of all survivors under subchapter IV terminates before a claim for survivor annuity under such subchapter is filed,

the lump-sum credit shall be paid.

(f) If all annuity rights under this chapter (other than under subchapter III of this chapter) based on the service of a deceased employee or Member terminate before the total annuity paid equals the lump-sum credit, the difference shall be paid.

(g) If an annuitant dies, annuity accrued and unpaid shall be paid.

(h) Annuity accrued and unpaid on the termination, except by death, of the annuity of an annuitant or survivor shall be paid to that individual. Annuity accrued and unpaid on the death of a survivor shall be paid in the following order of precedence, and the payment bars recovery by any other person:

First, to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the survivor.

Second, if there is no executor or administrator, payment may be made, after 30 days from the date of death of the survivor, to such next of kin of the survivor as the Office determines to be entitled under the laws of the domicile of the survivor at the date of death.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 539; amended Pub. L. 106-361, §3(b), Oct. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 1402.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 106-361 amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: "Payment of the lump-sum credit under subsection (a)—

"(A) may be made only if any current spouse and any former spouse of the employee or Member are notified of the application by the employee or Member; and

"(B) in any case in which there is a former spouse, shall be subject to the terms of a court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation issued with respect to such former spouse if—

"(i) the decree expressly relates to any portion of the lump-sum credit involved; and

"(ii) payment of the lump-sum credit would affect any right or interest of the former spouse with respect to a survivor annuity under section 8445, or to any portion of an annuity under section 8467."

§ 8425. Mandatory separation

(a) An air traffic controller who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section

8412(e) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which that air traffic controller becomes 56 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age. The Secretary, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, may exempt a controller having exceptional skills and experience as a controller from the automatic separation provisions of this subsection until that controller becomes 61 years of age. The Secretary shall notify the controller in writing of the date of separation at least 60 days before that date. Action to separate the controller is not effective, without the consent of the controller, until the last day of the month in which the 60-day notice expires. For purposes of this subsection, the term “air traffic controller” or “controller” has the meaning given to it under section 8401(35)(A).

(b)(1) A law enforcement officer, firefighter, nuclear materials courier, or customs and border protection officer who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which that law enforcement officer, firefighter, nuclear materials courier, or customs and border protection officer¹ as the case may be, becomes 57 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age. If the head of the agency judges that the public interest so requires, that agency head may exempt such an employee from automatic separation under this subsection until that employee becomes 60 years of age. The employing office shall notify the employee in writing of the date of separation at least 60 days before that date. Action to separate the employee is not effective, without the consent of the employee, until the last day of the month in which the 60-day notice expires.

(2)² In the case of employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the second sentence of paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting “65 years of age” for “60 years of age”. The authority to grant exemptions in accordance with the preceding sentence shall cease to be available after December 31, 2009.

(2)² In the case of employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the second sentence of paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting “65 years of age” for “60 years of age”. The Federal Bureau of Investigation may not grant more than 50 exemptions in any fiscal year in accordance with the preceding sentence, and the authority to grant such exemptions shall cease to be available after September 30, 2007.

(c) A member of the Capitol Police who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which such member becomes 57 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age. The Capitol Police Board, when in its judgment the public interest so requires, may exempt such a member from automatic separation under this subsection until that member becomes 60 years of age. The Board shall notify the member in writing of the date of separation at least 60 days before that date. Action to separate the member

is not effective, without the consent of the member, until the last day of the month in which the 60-day notice expires.

(d) A member of the Supreme Court Police who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which such member becomes 57 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age. The Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States, when in his judgment the public interest so requires, may exempt such a member from automatic separation under this subsection until that member becomes 60 years of age. The Marshal shall notify the member in writing of the date of separation at least 60 days before the date. Action to separate the member is not effective, without the consent of the member, until the last day of the month in which the 60-day notice expires.

(e) The President, by Executive order, may exempt an employee (other than a member of the Capitol Police or Supreme Court Police) from automatic separation under this section if the President determines the public interest so requires.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 540; amended Pub. L. 101-428, §3(b)(1)(A), (2), Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 929, 930; Pub. L. 101-509, title V, §529 [title IV, §409(b)], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1427, 1468; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(67), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1354; Pub. L. 103-283, title III, §307(b)(1), July 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 1441; Pub. L. 105-261, div. C, title XXXI, §3154(k), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2256; Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(c)(5)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A-87; Pub. L. 107-27, §2(b), Aug. 20, 2001, 115 Stat. 207; Pub. L. 108-176, title II, §226(a)(3)(B), Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2529; Pub. L. 108-447, div. B, title I, §112(b), Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2868; Pub. L. 108-458, title II, §2005(b), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3704; Pub. L. 110-161, div. E, title V, §535(b)(6), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2076.)

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110-161 substituted “nuclear materials courier, or customs and border protection officer who” for “or nuclear materials courier who” and “nuclear materials courier, or customs and border protection officer” for “or nuclear materials courier.”

2004—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-447, §112(b)(1), and Pub. L. 108-458, §2005(b)(1), amended subsec. (b) identically, designating existing provisions as par. (1).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-458, §2005(b)(2), added par. (2) relating to employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, limiting number of exemptions to 50 per fiscal year, and providing that authority to grant such exemptions shall cease to be available after Sept. 30, 2007.

Pub. L. 108-447, §112(b)(2), added par. (2) relating to employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and providing that authority to grant exemptions shall cease to be available after Dec. 31, 2009.

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-176 inserted at end “For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘air traffic controller’ or ‘controller’ has the meaning given to it under section 8401(35)(A).”

2001—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-27 struck out first sentence which read “A firefighter who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which such firefighter becomes 55 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.

² So in original. Two pars. (2) have been enacted.

age.” and, in second sentence, inserted “, firefighter,” after “law enforcement officer” in two places and substituted “courier, as the case may be, becomes 57 years of age” for “courier becomes 57 years of age”.

2000—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(c)(5)(A)], added subsec. (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(c)(5)], redesignated subsec. (d) as (e) and substituted “Police or Supreme Court Police” for “Police”.

1998—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-261, in second sentence, inserted “or nuclear materials courier” after “law enforcement officer” in two places.

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-283, §307(b)(1)(A), struck out “member of the Capitol Police or” before “firefighter who is” and “member or” before “firefighter becomes” in first sentence.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 103-283, §307(b)(1)(B), (C), added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

1992—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-378 amended first sentence generally and, in second sentence, substituted “becomes” for “become”. Prior to amendment, first sentence read as follows: “A law enforcement officer, member of the Capitol Police, or firefighter who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which that law enforcement officer, member of the Capitol Police, or firefighter becomes 55 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age.”

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-509, §529 [title IV, §409(b)(1)], which directed the amendment of subsec. (b) by striking out “law enforcement officer or” wherever appearing in first sentence, could not be executed because of a prior amendment by Pub. L. 101-428, §3(b)(1)(A), see below.

Pub. L. 101-509, §529 [title IV, §409(b)(2)], inserted after first sentence “A law enforcement officer who is otherwise eligible for immediate retirement under section 8412(d) shall be separated from the service on the last day of the month in which that law enforcement officer become 57 years of age or completes 20 years of service if then over that age.”

Pub. L. 101-428, §3(b)(1)(A), substituted “officer, member of the Capitol Police, or” for “officer or” in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-428, §3(b)(2), inserted “(other than a member of the Capitol Police)” after “employee”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT; TRANSITION RULES

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-161 effective on the later of June 30, 2008, or the first day of the first pay period beginning at least 6 months after Dec. 26, 2007, with transition rules and rights of election, see section 535(e) of Pub. L. 110-161, set out as a note under section 3307 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-176 effective on 60th day after Dec. 12, 2003, and applicable with respect to any annuity entitlement based on an individual's separation from service occurring on or after such effective date, and any service performed by any such individual before, on, or after such effective date, subject to special rule relating to deposit requirement, see section 226(c) of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as a note under section 8401 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-553 effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period that begins on Dec. 21, 2000, and applicable only to an individual who is employed as a member of the Supreme Court Police after Dec. 21, 2000, see section 1(a)(2) [title III, §308(i), (j)] of Pub. L. 106-553, set out in a Supreme Court Police Retirement note under section 8331 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-261 effective 1 year after Oct. 17, 1998, and applicable only to an individual who is employed as a nuclear materials courier, as defined by section 8331(27) or 8401(33) of this title, after Oct. 17, 1998, see section 3154(m), (n) of Pub. L. 105-261, set out as a note under section 8331 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-378 effective Nov. 5, 1990, see section 9(b)(6) of Pub. L. 102-378, set out as a note under section 6303 of this title.

EXCEPTION TO AUTOMATIC SEPARATION OF MEMBERS OF CAPITOL POLICE

Section 3(b)(1)(B) of Pub. L. 101-428 provided that: “Nothing in section 8425(b) of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subparagraph (A), shall require the automatic separation of any member of the Capitol Police before the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 15, 1990].”

SUBCHAPTER III—THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

§ 8431. Certain transfers to be treated as a separation

(a) For purposes of this subchapter, separation from Government employment includes a transfer from a position that is subject to one of the retirement systems described in subsection (b) to a position that is not subject to any of them.

(b) The retirement systems described in this subsection are—

- (1) the retirement system under this chapter;
- (2) the retirement system under subchapter III of chapter 83; and
- (3) any other retirement system under which individuals may contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund through withholdings from pay.

(Added Pub. L. 106-168, title II, §203(a)(1), Dec. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1820.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 8431, added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 541; amended Pub. L. 101-509, title V, §529 [title I, §101(b)(6)(B)], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1427, 1440, provided a definition of “basic pay” for this subchapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §659 [title II, §§206(a)(2), 207]], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-372, 3009-378, effective Sept. 30, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-168, title II, §203(c), Dec. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1820, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [enacting this section and amending section 8351 of this title] shall apply with respect to transfers occurring before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 12, 1999], except that, for purposes of applying such amendments with respect to any transfer occurring before such date of enactment, the date of such transfer shall be considered to be the date of the enactment of this Act. The Executive Director (within the meaning of section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) may prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this subsection.”

§ 8432. Contributions

(a)(1) An employee or Member may contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund in any pay period, pursuant to an election under subsection (b), an amount not to exceed the maximum percentage of such employee's or Member's basic pay for